

From: Jerome Yesavage [mailto:yesavage@stanford.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 12:15 PM
To: MLPAComments
Subject: Revised Comments

These are slightly revised comments in view of your recent meeting in Pacific last week and planning for your join meeting with DF&G this Weds. I plan to attend that meeting and would like this entered into the record if that is appropriate.

Sincerely,

Jerome Yesavage
Chairman, Board of Governors
California Trout



The Honorable Susan Golding, Chair
MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force
c/o California Resources Agency
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 11, 2008

Re: NCCRSG Proposals for Pescadero Marsh

Dear Ms. Golding,

I am writing for California Trout (CalTrout) to provide our comments on the proposals for Pescadero Marsh. CalTrout represents over 8,000 California citizens who fish in the state as well as 100 affiliated fishing organizations and clubs.

Specifically we are opposed to Draft Proposal 3 (TC) which includes Pescadero Estuary as a State Marine Reserve (SMR), which would prohibit even "catch and release" fishing for steelhead.

Pescadero Marsh has long been a favorite fishing site for Steelhead anglers. This area has been known for over a hundred years and clearly fits with the name of the local town. The Pescadero Native Sons Steelhead Committee has been instrumental in decades of work to preserve the steelhead in this Creek. The Pescadero Native Sons Steelhead Committee are also opposed to Draft Proposal 3 and feel that their long and difficult efforts to preserve their Creek will stop if there are no longer any angling possibilities on the Creek. Why should these people engage in length environmental battles over sediments in the Creek, barriers on tributaries and quality of water in the lagoon if they will no longer be able to fish even in the most restrained manner in this estuary?

CalTrout supports the position of the Pescadero Native Sons Steelhead Committee, the Golden West Women Flyfishers, and the Northern California/Nevada Federation of Fly Fishers to retain "catch and release" regulations in Pescadero Estuary.

In addition to the well-reasoned comments of these other organizations CalTrout steelhead staff note:

- there is no *legal* steelhead fishing in the ocean (2007-08 Ocean Sportfishing regs. 27.70b "the take of steelhead rainbow trout in the ocean is prohibited") thus *the entire ocean is a sanctuary for steelhead*.
- most streams are closed to fishing in spawning areas and small streams on the south central and central coast have very little opportunity for steelhead fishing which is often restricted to areas downstream of Highway 1 (estuaries and not much more)... there is really no other place to fish for steelhead close to San Francisco
- the streams that are open have seasonal closures, daily closures and flow closures

- seasonal = Dec. 1- Mar. 7 for most central and south central coast streams
 - daily (Sat., Sun., Wed., legal holidays and opening and closing days)
 - flow restriction closures (see section 8.00 in the fishing regs)
- when you take into account all the closures you may only be able to fish about 40 days per year. That means *they are closed 300+ days a year already.*
 - all fishing for wild steelhead in CA is a zero limit (except the Smith)

In summary, CalTrout has long supported protection of the Pescadero habitat and the Pescadero Creek steelhead population. We hope that the MLPA Initiative Blue Ribbon Task Force recognizes that Pescadero Creek steelhead fishing is already a heavily regulated endeavor with over a hundred years history that could be effectively eliminated by further regulation. Thus we request that no additional regulatory changes be made in this estuary that would augment the currently already restrictive regulations.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerome Yesavage MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "J", "Y", and "M" being particularly prominent.

Jerome Yesavage
Chairman, Board of Governors
California Trout
870 Market St. Suite 528
San Francisco, Ca. 94102